

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

Claim 1 (previously presented):        A method for an application to communicate with a Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) software object, in order to communicate with a procedure on a remote server via the Simple Object Access Protocol, comprising the steps of:

          issuing, by the application, a call to initialize the SOAP software object, said initialization including specifying the procedure on the remote server;

          issuing, by the application, a call to set the body of a SOAP request to be used by the SOAP software object, using a set of parameters to specify said body;

          issuing, by the application, a call to the SOAP software object, in order that the SOAP request be sent to the remote server;

          issuing, by the application, a call to query the SOAP software object to obtain status information; and

          issuing, by the application, a call to query the SOAP software object to obtain response information sent from the procedure on the remote server.

Claim 2 (previously presented):        The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

          issuing, by the application, a call to set a header in the SOAP request to be used by the SOAP software object, including in said header a value for a mustUnderstand attribute.

Claim 3 (previously presented):        The method of claim 1 wherein the call to the SOAP software object, in order that the SOAP request be sent to the remote server, does not return until either response information is received from the remote server or a set amount of time passes.

Claim 4 (previously presented):        The method of claim 1 wherein issued calls are to methods of the SOAP software object.

Claim 5 (previously presented):      The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:  
issuing, by the application, a call to instantiate the SOAP software object.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A computer-readable medium containing instructions that when executed cause a computer to communicate with a procedure on a remote server by performing the steps of:

initializing a SOAP software object, said initialization including specifying the procedure on the remote server;

setting the body of a SOAP request to be used by the SOAP software object, using a set of parameters to specify said body;

causing the SOAP software object to send the SOAP request to the remote server;

and

querying the SOAP software object to obtain status and response information.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A system for using SOAP to communicate with a server application on a remote host comprising:

a local host;

a client application running on the local host;

a communications link connecting the local host with the remote host; and

a set of functions running on the local host callable by the client application to use a SOAP software object to specify a SOAP request, to send the SOAP request to the remote host via the communications link, and to ~~obtain~~ retrieve status and response information concerning the SOAP request.

Claim 8 (original): The system of claim 7 wherein the set of functions is an application programming interface (API).

Claim 9 (original): The system of claim 8 wherein information passed through the API is in the form of parameters.

Claim 10: (original): The system of claim 8 wherein the API consists essentially of software objects.

Claim 11 (previously presented): An API presented by an operating system comprising a software object into which the fields of a SOAP request can be written and which supports methods of the software object for requesting that the SOAP request be sent to a remote server, for retrieving response information sent from the remote server, and for retrieving status information about the SOAP request.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A computer-readable medium containing instructions that when executed cause an operating system to present an API comprising a software object into which fields of a SOAP request can be written and which supports methods of the software object for requesting that the SOAP request be sent to a remote server, for retrieving response information sent from the remote server, and for retrieving status information about the SOAP request.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A method for communicating with a procedure on a remote server via SOAP, the method comprising:

- initializing a SOAP software object, the initializing comprising specifying the procedure on the remote server;

- using a set of parameters to specify a body of a SOAP request message to be used by the SOAP software object;

- calling the SOAP software object to request that the SOAP request message be sent to the remote server;

- querying the SOAP software object to obtain status information; and

- querying the SOAP software object to obtain response information sent from the procedure on the remote server.

Claim 14 (previously presented):      The method of claim 13 further comprising:

setting a header in the SOAP request message to be used by the SOAP software object, the setting of a header comprising including in the header a value for a mustUnderstand attribute.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 13 wherein the calling to request that a SOAP request message be sent to the remote server does not return until either response information is received from the remote server or until a set amount of time passes.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for communicating with a procedure on a remote server via SOAP, the method comprising:

initializing a SOAP software object, the initializing comprising specifying the procedure on the remote server;

using a set of parameters to specify a body of a SOAP request message to be used by the SOAP software object;

calling the SOAP software object to request that the SOAP request message be sent to the remote server;

querying the SOAP software object to obtain status information; and

querying the SOAP software object to obtain response information sent from the procedure on the remote server.

Claim 17 (canceled)